

Section I

Part I of Impaired Waters List

2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Part I of the Impaired Waters List includes impaired waters assessed either during the current or previous assessment periods. It is divided into three sections.

Part 1A lists waters that require development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) because either they do not support, or only partially support, designated uses other than shellfish consumption. There are 341 newly listed impaired segments in Part 1A, raising the total to 662. The most common cause of the impairments in these waters is levels of fecal coliform that violate water quality standards. Exceedences of fish tissue screening values are the primary cause of impairment in 25 newly listed segments. Other common causes for newly listed segments are violations of the dissolved oxygen and pH standards.

Part 1B lists waters that do not support, or only partially support, the shellfish consumption designated use. These waters are at risk for violating the fecal coliform water quality standard for direct shellfish harvest to market. In a very limited number of cases, heavy metals, or chlorinated hydrocarbons, are also of concern due to potential sources nearby. Fifty-four waters from the 1998 Part 1B list, are now candidates for delisting. Most were listed as impaired earlier due to their proximity to marinas or due to administrative shellfish closures. Water quality monitoring has not revealed a violation of the water quality standard for shellfish for the delisting candidates.

Part 1C lists waters with impairments that are either fully, or partially, due to natural causes. The most common type of impairment in such waters is a violation of the dissolved oxygen standard found in wetlands and near the bottom of many lakes. Further study of these waters is needed to determine the appropriate water quality standard that will reflect natural conditions. A subsequent evaluation of each of these waters individually will determine if impairments exist and a TMDL is needed and/or if changes to water quality standards are appropriate to reflect those conditions.